94
~~97~~ 115

PAPER NO. I

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

FORTY-THIRD SESSION

AGENDA

LUCKNOW

JANUARY, 1975

115/456

115

A G E N D A

C O N T E N T S

		Page
I.	Motion of Condolence ...	1
II.	Discussion on Secretary's Report ...	2
III.	Review of action taken on previous Resolutions and Recommendations of the Commission and the Standing Committee ...	2
	Annexure ...	23-56
IV.	Resolutions by Members ...	2
	A. Opening of Archival Centres ...	2
	B. Circulation of Proceedings of the Commission ...	5
	C. Centralisation of Records ...	5
	D. Reference Media ...	8
	E. Survey of Temple Records ...	10
	F. Acquiring of Microfilms of Records of Foreign Consuls in India ...	11
	G. Constitution of a Sub-Committee of the Commission ...	12
	H. Access to Records ...	13
	I. Records of the Political Department of the erstwhile Bombay Government ...	15
	J. Institution of Scholarships and other Financial Assistance for Historical Studies ...	17
	K. The Indian Archives ...	19
	L. Microfilming of Newspapers and other Periodicals ...	20
	M. Co-ordination of Archival activities in the Country ...	22A

Explanatory note:

The President's suggestions indicating in general the mode of active participation of the various categories of the members of the Commission to make their work regular and review it from time to time to make it more and more effective were communicated in letter No. F.1-2/73-C, dated 21.4.1973 of Secretary of the Commission. As the Universities and other learned bodies and State Archives Directorates are members of the Commission it is desirable that there should be close co-ordination and co-operation between all of them. Particularly, in our region we are unable to acquire any records by ourselves because of the reluctance of the persons possessing them even to loan them temporarily. There should be, first of all, intensive exploration and later there should be efforts to obtain the records persuading the persons to loan them at least temporarily and copy them. This can only be done by experienced persons manning the Archival cells. In this task the Universities also should be associated with them to sift and assess the historical value of the material. For all this both may take responsibility and credit in reporting the acquisitions to the Commission. This explanatory note of the resolution may kindly be considered so as to enable the regions and institutions that were lagging behind in the acquisition of records to be active and progressive in these matters. A comparative view of the reports of the Commission presents an uneven picture which should be rectified by following suitable policies and taking suitable measures.

Views of the Standing Committee

The proposed resolution has the laudable purpose of ensuring closer cooperation between the historians and the archivists in the task of surveying, listing and acquiring records in private custody.

The Indian Historical Records Commission and its Research and Publication Committee have already passed a number of Resolutions recommending:-

(1) The setting up of Regional Records Survey Committees in the various States and Co-ordination of activities between the Universities, the Regional Records Survey Committees and the State Archives Departments was recommended by Research and Publications Committee(Resolution Nos.IV of its 1st meeting (1942) and V of its 3rd meeting(1943).

(2) That the Universities should set up their own Archival Cells to look after their own records (Resolution No.XIV of 38th Session).

(3) Opening of Regional Records Centres at the headquarters of each Commissioner's Division (Resolution No.XIV of 41st Session)

(4) That the Central and State Governments should open the maximum number of Records Centres or Intermediate Repositories(Resolution No.VI of 42nd Session).

These resolutions, if and when implemented, would secure substantially the purpose of the resolution proposed now. For surveying, listing and acquiring private papers, the machinery of the Regional Records Survey Committees is visualised and has been functioning in many States. The Regional Records Survey Committees also bring together the historians from Universities and archivists in the States, and can serve the purpose better. The Andhra University is already represented on the Regional Records Survey Committee of the State through its Professor of History. Any particular problem faced by the Andhra University in the exploration of records in the Andhra region should, therefore, be taken up with the Regional Records Survey Committee, which is among the most active Survey Committees in the country.

The need is to implement more vigorously the earlier Resolutions regarding opening of Regional Records Centres at the headquarters of each Commissioner's Division and regarding the setting up of Regional Records Survey Committees, and to allot adequate funds for these.

B. Circulation of the Proceedings of the Commission

(2) Resolution by Shri Durgaprasad Bhattacharya

"Resolved that the draft proceedings of the Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission be circulated within two months of a Session and members be requested to send their comments or corrections within a month from the date of receipt of the draft proceedings; further that the final proceedings be circulated at least six months before the next Session".

Standing Committee's views:

The draft Proceedings of the meetings of Committees and Commissions have to be approved by their Presidents/Charimen/ Conveners in any case. Circulating them to Members beforethat and getting their comments would impose further delays in their finalisation. Regarding the proposal that the approved proceedings be circulated at least six months before the next Session, this is already the general practice. Relevant extracts from the Proceedings of the 42nd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission containing Resolutions were supplied to all Members during June and July 1973. The Session was held in January 1973. Proceedings were not cyclostyled in full because they have soon to be printed in full, and according to the decision of the Government of India, (vide Ministry of Works and Housing circular No. L-15011/6/71-PI, dated 24 February 1972) maximum economy has to be made in the cyclostyling and printing of Government Publications.

C. Centralisation of Records

(3) Resolution by Dr. Gopal Krishna

"The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to all the State Governments that Prison records pertaining to the freedom fighters imprisoned in their territories from time to time over the entire period of the Freedom Struggle be centralised in the State Archives. It further recommends that theNational Archives of India should prepare a microfilm copy of these records and make it available to the students of the National Movement."

Standing Committee's views:

The Commission at its 40th Session held at Madras in February 1970 has already recommended vide Resolution No.XIII that all the State Governments should transfer records of the National Movement, especially from 1885 to 1947 in the custody of the Offices of their Home Departments and other Offices/Departments and quasi-Government Offices, to the State Archives and these be thrown open for research. The records of the prisons in the States are also covered by the above Resolution. Among the State Governments/Union Territories which have organised Archives Departments of their own, Kerala, Punjab, Orissa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Goa, Daman and Diu have agreed to implement this Resolution. Government of Assam informed that the records relating to Freedom Struggle were available in the Secretariat Record Office. But the transfer of similar records from other offices was not possible at that time due to lack of accommodation. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has, however, reported that it was not possible to split the records of the National Movement from the series, nor was it possible to transfer all the records from 1885 to 1947 of all Government or quasi-Government Offices to the State Archives for want of space. Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, and Mysore, promised to bear the Resolution in mind as and when Archives Departments were set up. Manipur and Madhya Pradesh on the same analogy, stated that action on the above Resolution was not possible. Laccadives reported that records on the National Movement were not available.

The Standing Committee is of the view that the real solution to the problem lies in ensuring that all the non-current records lying with the various Ministries/Departments and other Field Offices of the Government of India as well as the State Governments and Union Territories, be transferred to their respective Archives Repositories both for preservation and use by research scholars. Records dealing with Freedom Movement would then automatically be transferred to the Archives, for use by scholars.

The proposal that the National Archives of India should prepare microfilm copies of all the records in the prisons relating to the Freedom Fighters is not workable. No State Government or Prison would be prepared to send the relevant records for being microfilmed nor has the National Archives of India the capacity to send its mobile camera to every prison/State for this purpose in addition to its other commitments. Only when the Important Prison records are deposited in their respective Central or Divisional Archives the scholars could get them microfilmed. During the 5th Plan period, provision has been made for enlargement of reprography services at the State Archives or their Regional Centres to be opened.

D. Reference Media

Resolution by Dr. G.S.Dikshit

"The National Archives should undertake a programme of amalgamating the Indexes to its records with the list of documents actually transferred to it, and since the programme will involve considerable outlay of expenditure, provision should be made in the 5th Five Year Plan for necessary staff and expenses."

Explanatory note

At present the National Archives have printed alphabetical indexes to its records from 1830 onwards which are the main reference aids to the records in its custody. However, when a scholar requisitions the documents mentioned therein, quite often, he is told, that they are not transferred to the Archives. To avoid disappointment and to save time, the Archives staff advise scholars to look upon the Transfer Lists, before requisitioning documents. Since there is only one copy of the Transfer Lists, time is spent in requisitioning it. After he gets it, the scholar finds in this list only numbers of files which are transferred and no indication of their contents. The Archives Staff also has to spend time in checking up if the file concerned is transferred. It is, therefore, highly desirable for both the users as well as the suppliers to have an alphabetical subject index of the files which are actually in the Archives. As the number of such lists is very large, its index cannot be prepared

without suitable additional establishment. The Government of India should be approached for this purpose to provide for it in the 5th Five Year Plan. Modern duplicating techniques may be used to save printing costs and delays in bringing out such indexes. If one calculates the man hours wasted at present in checking transfer lists either by Researchers or Archives Staff, the preparation of the index to files actually with the Archives will ultimately be found to be cheaper though capital outlay will be substantial.

Standing Committee's views:

The difficulty being faced by scholars is genuine. But no easily practicable solution appears possible. The Transfer Lists contain only file numbers and give no indication of the contents or subject matter of a file. To prepare new indexes of all the millions of files in the National Archives of India is out of question. The only possible solution appears to be to mark NT (not transferred) in the index volumes against all files which are there in the index volumes but which do not figure in the Transfer Lists. This solution would also involve a heavy load of work, as the index volumes are estimated to total nearly 8,000, and each entry in each of these volumes would have to be checked with the transfer lists. Moreover, the index volumes, being creation of the records creating agencies themselves, have an archival value of their own, and any addition or tampering with their entries is wrong from the view point of archival principles. Also, the important schemes of the National Archives of India in the 5th Plan are being cut or pruned due to cut in the 5th Plan allocation, and it would be impossible to include in the 5th Plan this new item of work without giving up some other important scheme.

E. Survey of Temple Records

(5) Resolution by Dr. Tarasankar Banerjee

"Resolved that there be a comprehensive survey of records preserved in big temples followed by the preparation of a descriptive list which should be made available to scholars in the National Archives of India".

Explanatory Note

Temple records are immensely useful for research in socio-economic history. These records are lying scattered in different temples the contents of which are little known to researchers. A survey of these records followed by a descriptive list will help the scholars in locating the desired materials.

Standing Committee's views:

The Commission has already passed Resolutions concerning the preservation and listing of the records of the temples and other religious institutions. By Resolution No. VII of the 41st Session held in 1971, the Commission has appealed to the concerned authorities of Temples, Gurdwaras, Churches, Khankahs, Waqfs etc. to allow bon fide research scholars to consult their documents and they should, if necessary prepare lists of these records. By Resolution No. VIII of the same Session, the Commission made an appeal to the authorities to maintaining the records of these institutions to ensure their proper preservation and if possible to deposit them with the various Archives or Learned Institutions. In response to these, some State Govenments and Union Territories (namely Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Goa, Daman and Diu, Kerala, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh) have reported having taken steps to contact the authorities of these institutions.

The Governments of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have reported that these Resolutions were receiving attention. The matter was again discussed in depth at the 42nd Session of the Commission and a Resolution (No.IX) was adopted requesting the State Governments to enact a Law bringing under the supervision of the State Archival Services, the records of the private religious bodies, Learned Institutions, Universities etc. The Commission may like to wait for a years or so before passing any other Resolution concerning the records of the religious bodies. However the Regional Records Survey Committees should give priority to the survey and listing of the records of the Temples etc. and their lists should be made available to the National Archives of India, to be published in the volumes of the National Register of Private Records.

F. Acquisition of Microfilms of Records of Foreign Consuls in India

(6) Resolution by Dr. Tarasankar Banerjee

"Resolved that microfilm copies of the reports from Foreign Consuls stationed in different cities in India before 1947 be acquired by the National Archives of India as far as possible".

Explanatory Note

These reports which were regularly sent to the Home authorities are quite informative and especially throw light on the progress and trend of the Nationalist Movement in India. These reports which are likely to be less biased, will definitely help a proper evaluation of the Nationalist Movement in this country.

Standing Committee's views:

The National Archives of India has regular programme of acquiring microfilms of records of foreign Consulates stationed in India. Already the Department has acquired microfilms of records of some United States and Russian Consulates in India.

Information has also been collected by the Department about the records of the German and Hungarian Consulates available in the archival repositories of the German Democratic Republics and Hungary. The Department is trying to acquire microfilms of these papers under Cultural Exchange Programmes. No Resolution, therefore, appears necessary.

G. Constitution of a Sub-Committee of the Commission

(7) Resolution by Shri J.K.Jain

"This Commission recommends that a small Sub-Committee out of its existing members should be constituted to work under the Chairmanship of the Director of National Archives to assess and assist the State Archives in the task of implementation of various resolutions passed by the Indian Historical Records Commission."

Explanatory Note

After going through the proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission of the recent past, I have come to a conclusion that the activities of the Commission have almost been reduced to an annual stock taking of the actions taken by the various Archives in the year under review. But I feel that it could serve the Archival cause

in a better manner if certain steps are taken to revitalise it. As an immediate measure and if the members of the Commission approve of it, we could make a provision of a Sub-Committee constituted out of its members who should meet at least twice in a year to assess and examine mainly the difficulties which the member States might be facing in getting the various Resolutions implemented. This Committee, I am sure could definitely help in achieving some positive results.

Standing Committee's views:

Para IV(2) of the Constitution of the Indian Historical Records Commission empowers the Commission to appoint one or more Committees to deal with particular problems requiring investigation. The Standing Committee has also been created to assist in the implementation of Resolutions by reviewing the action taken on them. What the other Committees would be able to do which the Standing Committee cannot, is not clear, though there is no objection to setting up of a Committee as provided for in the Indian Historical Records Commission Constitution.

H. Access to Records

(8) Resolution by Shri J.K. Jain

"The Indian Historical Records Commission strongly recommends that all the State Archives should take immediate steps in declaring open their respective records upto December 1945 to bonafide research scholars."

Explanatory Note

It is quite incongruous that in our country inspite of single code of Civil and other laws for the entire country there could not be a uniform rule for the 'open period' of the records. This limit varies from State to State and that too without much justification. Strangely enough almost seven years have passed when this Commission recommended in its 1966 Session that all the States should throw open their records which are more than 30 years old but I doubt if much has been done in many States. Therefore, I once again solicit the support of my fellow members to put on record their sense of concern and may adopt yet another resolution.

Standing Committees views

The Commission has been fully seized of the problem of enforcing uniformity in the rules governing access to the records of the Government of India and the State Governments. Following Resolution No.XVII of the 37th Session of the Commission, held in 1966, recommending that "All records in the custody of the Union and State Governments which are more than 30 years old should be opened for bonafide researches", the Commission at its 38th Session held in 1967, reiterated (vide Resolution V) the need for all the State Governments to frame rules governing access to their records in conformity with those in force in the National Archives of India. The replies received from the State Governments about the progress made in this behalf were again discussed at the 40th, 41st and 42nd Sessions of the Commission held in 1970, 1971 and 1973. The Chairman of the

Standing Committee has addressed the Chief Secretaries of State Governments to secure implementation of these Resolutions and favourable results are expected. Still, there appears no objection to repeat the earlier recommendations of the Commission.

I. Records of the Political Department of the erstwhile Bombay Government

(9) Resolution by Shri V.G. Khobrekar

"Government of India may be requested to move the Government of Great Britain to transfer the records of the Political Department of the then Bombay Government for the period from 1830 to 1909 which were inadvertently sent to London and are now housed in India Office Library and Records. Also that Government of India may try to find out whereabout of records from 1914-33 and restore them to Maharashtra Archives."

Explanatory Note

Prior to 1924 records of the Residents and Political Agents for Native States in the Bombay Province were in the custody of the Bombay Archives. On the transfer of the control to the Government of India, of the Political Department, these records were transferred to that Government.

But later, on termination of the Paramountcy in 1947, the records of the Western India States Agency only were sent back to the Bombay Archives and the records pertaining to the Deccan States were sent to the United Kingdom.

Recently, the Director of Archives, Maharashtra State, spent a fortnight in India Office Library and Records, London to inspect the Deccan States and Kolhapur records. He found

that the records from 1820 to 1909 are in the said Office. Those from 1909 to 1914 are with the Bombay Archives mixed up with miscellaneous series. However, there is no trace of the records from 1914 to 1947 of this series. These are believed to be with the National Archives.

The Indian Historical Records Commission requests the Government of India to take up this matter with the Government of the United Kingdom requesting them to transfer the records in its custody for the period from 1820 to 1909 to Bombay Archives (Maharashtra State) to make it a complete series.

Standing Committee's views

The National Archives of India is already obtaining from the India Office Library and Records, London, microfilm copies of those Residency Records which are not available with it. There should, therefore, be no difficulty for the Government of Maharashtra to obtain microfilm copies of the records of the late Political Department of the erstwhile Bombay Government from 1820 to 1909 which are available with the above Library in London. In the case of the records of the Bombay Political Department for the period 1914-33 too, the India Office Library and Records could provide the clue if at all. So far as the National Archives of India is concerned, it had received a few series of the late Bombay Political Department records. But all these were returned to the Maharashtra State Archives in 1965. At the present the National Archives of India has in its possession only the records of the

Kolhapur and Deccan States Agency from 1935-49. These and all the other records of the Residencies which may be available with the Maharashtra Government and other States belong to the Government of India and should be made over to the National Archives of India. The Committee is pleased to note that Maharashtra has already agreed to do the needful.

J. Institution of Scholarships and other Financial Assistance for Historical Studies

(10-12) Resolutions by Prof. Ramlal Parikh

(10) "Resolved that the Government of India and University Grants Commission be requested to institute scholarships for Ph.D. studies based on historical records and archives whether for a degree or outside the academic work".

Explanatory Notes

Vast materials are buried in Archival Directorates of the country, which so far have remained inaccessible due to lack of uniform set of rules. Research scholars, therefore, are experiencing hardships in many ways in getting useful source materials for their research work. Archival Directorates themselves are not in a position to utilise the materials critically by undertaking publications. Therefore it is necessary to institute sufficient number of research scholarships for research project for those who are in search of the required material. This will promote research so far neglected in modern period of Indian history.

(11) "Resolved that research grants be given to university teachers for compiling unknown historical records".

Explanatory note

In order to help scholars travel grants should be given in unearthing materials for useful purposes from all the Archives of the country.

(12) "Resolved that the financial support be given to those who desire to bring out bibliographies and monographs on records."

Standing Committee's views

These proposed resolutions recommend to the University Grants Commission and perhaps other un-named agencies to give scholarships, travel grants, research grants and financial supoort to scholars and research workers engaged in Ph.D. studies among archives, engaged in unearthing unknown historical records or engaged in bringing Bibliographies and Monographs on records.

The University Grants Commission, many Universities, the Indian Council of Historical Research, the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla, the Nehru Memorial Fund etc. already give scholarships, travel grants, etc. for research. It is desirable that the number and amount of these scholarships should be increased as much as possible, and that they should be available for research of the types mentioned, in addition to research on other subjects. The Resolutions can perhaps be reworded and combined into one Resolution to bring out clearly the objective.

K. The Indian Archives

(13) Resolution by Prof. Ramlal Parikh

"Resolved that a two-monthly periodical of the National Archives of India be published instead of six monthly and its Hindi edition should also be published".

Standing Committee's views

The Indian Archives, being brought out by the National Archives of India as a six monthly journal, began in 1947 as a Quarterly. But in 1950 the journal had to be made Bi-annual, because of the difficulties encountered, mainly in obtaining sufficient articles of a high standard on archival subjects. On many occasions, several issues of the Bio-annual journal have had to be amalgamated into a single issue. Printing difficulties, shortage of paper, work-load in editing and proof-reading etc. have also to be considered in deciding the periodicity of the journal. It is obviously more important to ensure high quality than high periodicity in a professional journal of this type.

Since each issue of the journal has only a small number of copies printed (generally 500 copies), bringing it out in Hindi edition would be uneconomical, and would also require additional staff for translation etc. Instead, the National Archives of India has been trying to include Hindi articles also in the journal to make it bi-lingual.

L. Microfilming of Newspapers and other Periodicals

(14) Resolution by Dr.S.V.Desika Char

"The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to the Government of India and the State Governments the desirability of providing facilities in their respective Archival Departments for the microfilming of newspapers and other periodicals, current as well as old, at the request of the owners or proprietors concerned, and conserving one copy in the repository as a record of permanent historical value".

Explanatory note

While great attention is being paid for retrieving and preserving old newspapers and other periodicals as important sources of historical knowledge, little attention is being paid to the conservation of the very same class of materials being produced currently. Institutions like the National Library of India are trying to preserve in original some of the important current newspapers and periodicals. This could be done only in respect of the materials of the last decade or two. Having regard to the poor quality of the paper generally in use and the difficulties of storage, it is highly desirable to have them microfilmed currently. Some of the leading newspapers have already adopted the policy of having their publications microfilmed to ensure their permanent preservation. It is desirable that a Microfilm Unit is set up in every State Archives where it is not already found, and facilities provided to owners and proprietors to have their publications

microfilmed at a subsidised rate. One condition for providing the facility should be that the State Archives keeps one copy of the microfilm, preferably the negative, with the right to make an additional positive for consultation by scholars. It is hardly necessary to state that this would be a major step towards conservation of a very important source of history for the benefit of posterity, apart from its contemporary value. The Standing Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission may be authorised to constitute a small committee comprising interalia the Director of the National Archives of India, the Director of the National Library of India and two eminent persons to represent the proprietors and Journalists to work out the details and tender necessary advice.

Standing Committee's views

There can be no doubt that it is desirable to provide microfilming facilities in every State Archives. These facilities are necessary to film certain records of the archives itself for insurance copy or for meeting the demands of scholars, and also for microfilming important records in private possession. This microfilming capacity can also be used for filming newspapers and journals.

It is agreed that filming of selected newspapers soon after they come out will be a more systematic method, instead of filming newspapers when they become old and start decaying.

At present newspaper filming is being undertaken by the National Library, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, National Archives of India and also some Newspaper Offices themselves. It is understood that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are also considering the microfilming of newspapers etc. In order to avoid duplication and waste of effort and resources, it certainly appears desirable to have a Committee representing the main agencies involved, to decide which newspapers, in English and Indian languages should be selected for microfilming and which agencies should be entrusted with this task. If some newspapers are themselves interested in microfilming of their issues this Committee can settle suitable terms and details with them.

M. Co-ordination of Archival activites in the Country

15. Resolution by the Government of Orissa

"Resolved that the Standing Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission be entrusted with the task of promoting co-ordination of archival activities in the country."

Explanatory Note:

Maintenance of common standard in archival activities, such as documentation, arrangement, retirement and preservation of records is essential, because deviation from these standards is sure to be harmful to any archival collection. In the past, valuable collections had disappeared because in India there is no common standard in archival activities. Repositories in some States are still in their infancy and co-ordination is essentially required.

The Standing Committee can play an important role in standardising the archival activities in the country and for this purpose the Committee should be vested with the power of inspection of different State Archives. The financial liabilities for the execution of co-ordination programme should vest on the Union Government.

Standing Committee's views:

The proposal can be implemented only if the State Governments agree to it. The Indian Historical Records Commission is already entrusted with the task of coordination of archival activities. Moreover, it is not clear what will be the financial liabilities for promoting coordination which the Central Government will be called upon to bear.

ANNEXURE

Conspectus of action taken on the previous Resolutions and Recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission (38th to 42nd Sessions)

Conspectus of action taken on previous Resolutions and Recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission (38th to 42nd Sessions)

C O N T E N T S

		Page
I.	Resolutions of the 38th Session, Jadavpur (Calcutta), November 1967	
	Resolution V : (Access to Records) ...	27
	Resolution XIV : (University Archives) ...	28
II.	Resolutions of the 39th Session, Patna, December 1968	
	Resolution V : (Records of the President of India and the Governors of States) ...	28
	Resolution VI : (Microfilm Copies of Documents Scattered in West Asia) ...	29
III.	Resolutions of the 40th Session, Madras, February 1970	
	Resolution II : (Records of the State Bank of India) ...	30
	Resolution XIII: (Records of National Movement) ...	31
	Resolution XIV : (Mobile Microfilm Units) ...	31
	Resolution XV : (Annual Administration Reports of the States) ...	32
	Resolution XVI : (Theses on Modern Indian History) ...	33
IV.	Resolutions of the 41st Session, Trivandrum, October 1971	
	Resolution III : (Compilation of Reference Media to Records) ...	34
	Resolution IV : (Weeding of Records by Trained Persons) ...	35

Resolution V : (i) (Transfer of all District Records more than 30 years old to the State Archives and (ii) to declare Director of State Archives to be the Inspecting Authority) ... 36

Resolution VI : (Compilation of Lists of old Publications) ... 36

Resolution VII : (Access to Records of the Temples, Gurdwaras, Churches, Khankahs, Waqfs etc.) ... 37

Resolution VIII: (Proper Preservation of Records of Temples, Maths, Churches, Mosques, Gurdwaras etc.) ... 37

Resolution IX : (Archival Training in Universities) ... 37

Resolution XII : (Management of Records and their time-bound Appraisal) ... 39

Resolution XIII: (Supply of Microfilm or Typed copies of "Open" Records to the Research Scholars) ... 40

Resolution XIV : (Regional or Divisional Archives in Commissioners' Divisions) ... 40

Resolution XV : (Residential Accommodation for Research Scholars) ... 41

V. Resolutions of the 42nd Session, Panaji(Goa), January 1973

Resolution I : (Motion of Condolence) ... 42

Resolution II : (Edited Texts or Calendars for award of Doctorate Degrees) ... 42

Resolution III : (Laying of Sound Conventions for the Indian Historical Records Commission by its Standing Committee) ... 43

Resolution IV : (Recognition of Meritorious Services for Preservation of Private Records) ... 46

Resolution V : (Preservation of Balance Sheets submitted by Indian Business Firms) ... 46

Resolution VI : (Intermediate Record Centres) ... 46

Resolution VII :	(Records in the custody of Central Bureau of Intelligence, State Police Departments and Departments of Criminal Investigation)	... 48
Resolution VIII:	(Historical Maps of Survey of India)	... 49
Resolution IX :	(Enactment of Law by the State Governments for Preservation of Records by Private Bodies etc.)	... 49
Resolution X :	(Archival Legislation by Government of India)	... 50
Resolution XI :	(Well-Articulated Retirement Policy for the Records of the State Governments)	... 50
Resolution XII :	(Standard Quality Paper)	... 51
Resolution XIII:	(Archives of the Municipal Corporations)	... 52
Resolution XIV :	(Seminar of the Archivists and Historians of the Indian Ocean Countries)	... 52
Resolution XV :	(Vote of Thanks)	... 53

Resolutions of the 38th Session, Jadavpur (Calcutta), 16-18 November, 1967

Further to the information placed before the Commission at its 42nd and earlier Sessions on the resolutions and recommendations of the 38th to 41st Sessions, replies received from the State Governments, Universities, Learned Institutions and others are summarised below. It may be noted that in many cases the concerned authorities have had to be reminded again and again.

Resolution V: The Commission heartily welcomes the recent decisions of the Government of India in respect of access to the records of the Ministries of Home and External Affairs and expresses the hope that the other Ministries of the Government of India would take similar action at an early date.

Further, the Commission resolves that the State Governments be requested to fall in line with the Union Government and frame rules on the subject in conformity with those in force in the National Archives of India.

National Archives of India: In accordance with the views expressed at the 42nd Session of the Commission, the Chairman of the Standing Committee invited the representatives of the Ministries of External Affairs, Defence, Home Affairs, Law and of the Department of Personnel(O&M), Government of India, to meet on 24 November 1973 for considering further liberalisation of rules governing access to the records of the Government of India and also removal of anamolies in the existing rules. The Commission would be informed of the decisions taken.

Gujarat: The Government of Gujarat has recently (December 1971) set up the Department of Archives. The rules regulating access to records in Archives Office are yet to be framed.

Mysore: Permanent historical records over 30 years old and non-permanent historical records over 25 years old are open for research. Copies of the printed Government orders from 1926 onwards can, however, be examined.

Orissa: The Government have revised theresearch rules. The records more than fifty years old have been thrown open for research.

> Resolution XIV: The Commission notes with regret that in most of the Universities records are ill-maintained and papers of historical value are irretrievably lost. As such it resolves that Universities be requested to entrust the care of their records to officers who have had training in archives-keeping, consult historians of standing in selecting records for permanent retention, and also maintain them on scientific lines as a separate entity.

Berhampur University: The Post-Graduate Department of History of the University desires to open an Archives Unit to collect the abundant archival materials lying scattered in some regions of Orissa.

(Please also see Standing Committee's remarks regarding Berhampur University at p.55).

II. Resolutions of the 39th Session, Patna, 25-27 December, 1968

> Resolution V: The Commission recommends that the records of the President of India and the Governors of the States may be preserved in their own premises in an archival manner.

Mysore: The Mysore State Archives is till in the process of being set up. After the Department is fully constituted, the records in the Raj Bhawan of Mysore will be examined and a report thereof submitted.

Punjab: The records from 1947-72 of different series, viz. (i) Establishment, (ii) Miscellaneous, (iii) Memorials, (iv) Petitions, (v) Universities, (vi) Assembly Acts/Bills,

(vii) Messages, (viii) Reamployment, (ix) Vidhan Sabha records and (x) Grants Comprising 10,181 files are preserved in the Raj Bhawan.

The records are preserved in the Raj Bhawan in a separate record room under the charge of an official. No special officer has been appointed for the upkeep of the records.

The state of preservation of records is satisfactory and for the present no problem in the preservation of the records has arisen.

Tamil Nadu: The Governor's fortnightly letters to the President of India and the Governor's speeches on important occasions are preserved in an archival manner in the Governor's Secretariat. The records are preserved safe in that Secretariat from damage, dust, vermin etc.

West Bengal: The Governor's Secretariat of the State was duly requested to intimate the action taken by them on the resolution.

> Resolution VI: The Commission resolves that the Government of India be requested to take early steps to obtain microfilm copies of documents scattered in West Asia relating to India's trade with that region.
>
> With this end in view, the Commission further resolves that scholars who had knowledge of the languages concerned and the necessary historical background be deputed to the countries to make proper selection of the papers to be obtained.

The National Archives of India had received from the Aligarh Muslim University Library volumes III to VIII of the Catalogues to the Persian Manuscripts in the custody of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Tashkent. Microfilm copies of

the Indexes of these volumes have been prepared. Documents of our interest mentioned in these indexes will be sorted out and their microfilm copies obtained as early as possible. Efforts are being made to obtain volumes I and II of the above Catalogues for the same purpose. The Indian Embassies in West Asia have also been requested to collect the required information from the countries to which they are accredited. Under the Cultural Exchange Programmes finalised with Afghanistan and Yugoslavia for the years 1973 and 1974, Officers of the National Archives of India will be visiting these countries and will collect further necessary information on records of our interest there. Similar Exchange Programme with Iran is being finalised for 1973-75 period. Proposal has also been sent to the Government of India for an Exchange Programme with Iran during 1973-74. The Seminar or Symposium of the Archivists and Historians of the Indian Ocean countries, which is proposed to be held in India during 1974, will also yield sufficient information on records of Indian interest in West Asia.

III. Resolutions of the 40th Session, Madras 18-20 February, 1970

Resolution II: The Commission requests the Secretary to discuss the question of access to the old records of the State Bank of India, especially the papers of the Presidency Banks, with the authorities of the State Bank of India personally and try to obtain their permission so that scholars may be able to consult them.

The State Bank of India has not replied to the letters sent by the Director of Archives, Government of India about the implementation of the resolution. The Chairman, Standing Committee, therefore, addressed a letter to the Chairman of the State Bank of India. Further action on the subject by the State Bank of India is awaited.

Resolution XIII: The Commission resolves to recommend to the State Governments that the records of the National Movement, especially from 1885 to 1947, in the custody of the offices of the Home Department and other Offices/ Departments and quasi-Government Offices may be transferred to the State Archives and thrown open for research where this has not been done already.

Himachal Pradesh: It is proposed to create an organisation in this State for keeping the historical records from the next year. The recommendation contained in the above note would be kept in view.

Maharashtra: The matter has been referred to the State Government.

Nagaland: The Government of Nagaland has asked its Cultural Research and State Museum to transfer the records on National Movement pertaining to the State from the concerned State Government Departments to the State Archives Cell.

Uttar Pradesh: Action is being taken.

West Bengal: The matter has been taken up with the Home(Political) Department of this Government. The decision of the State Government in this respect will be communicated in due course.

Resolution XIV: The Commission resolves that the National Archives of India be requested to set up adequate mobile microfilm units to take microfilm copies of private papers in different parts of India at the request of the Regional Records Survey Committees or otherwise, and that one copy of such papers be deposited in the State Archives and another copy in the National Archives. The Commission also recommends that the expenditure involved should be met by the National Archives.

Microfilming of Records in the Sringeri Math and the Institute of Kannada Studies

There are a number of Kadatas and Nirupas available with the Sringeri Math, Sringeri, Karnataka which contain useful information about the political, social and economic history of the region covering the last 1250 years or more. These were inspected during 1972 by Professor G.S. Dikshit of the Karnataka University, the Director of Archives, National Archives of India and the Special Officer, State Archives, Karnataka. Earlier during 1970, the Rajyapal of Karnataka had also recommended to the Government of India for the microfilming of these records. The mobile microfilm unit of the National Archives of India is being deputed to Sringeri Math for doing the needful.

The Microfilm Unit has already copied two Kadatas lying with the Institute of Kannada Studies, University of Mysore.

Resolution XV: The Commission resolves that the National Archives be requested to procure and preserve copies of Annual Administration Reports of the States and reports of various Committees and Commissions published by the State Governments and the Centrally Administered Areas for the use of research scholars.

Further to the report submitted at the 42nd Session (1973), the National Archives of India has received the Annual Reports(1972-73) etc. from the following State Governments and Union Territories:

(1) Haryana, (2) Kerala, (3) Madhya Pradesh, (4) Maharashtra, (5) Mysore, (6) Orissa, (7) Punjab, (8) Pondicherry, (9) Tamil Nadu, (10) Uttar Pradesh, (11) Delhi, (12) Goa Daman and Diu, (13) Laccadives.

Himachal Pradesh: State Government has informed that it is proposed to create an organisation in this State for keeping the Historical Records from the next year. The recommendation contained in the above resolution would be kept in view. They have been again approached, explaining that the Annual Reports etc. can be sent to the National Archives of India even before the State Archives is set up in Himachal Pradesh.

> Resolution XVI: The Commission recommends that a typed copy of all theses bearing on Modern Indian History, approved by Indian Universities for the award of Ph.D. Degree should be deposited in the National Archives of India for consultation by scholars as soon as the result is declared. Where Universities find it difficult to deposit a copy in the National Archives, one should be sent to it to be microfilmed for the use of the scholars.

(a) Resolution has been accepted by the Universities of Berhampur, Burdwan, Gauhati, Gorakhpur, Karnataka, Saurashtra and Visva-Bharati. Of these, the Universities of Gauhati, Karnataka, Sardar Patel, Saugar and Visva-Bharati have already supplied to the National Archives of India copies of the Ph.D. theses on Modern Indian History either for deposit or for being microfilmed.

(b) Resolution has been noted by the Universities of Jadavpur and Jammu. Magadh University has no objection. While Banaras University has informed that the matter was under consideration.

(c) Resolution has not been accepted by the Universities of Maharaja Sayaji Rao, Baroda, and Rajasthan, while the Annamalai and Kanpur Universities have informed that no Ph.D. Degree in Modern Indian History has been awarded by them so far.

IV. Resolutions of the 41st Session, Trivandrum, 9-11 October, 1971

Resolution III: The Indian Historical Records Commission places on record its appreciation of the steps taken by the National Archives of India during the last two years for expediting the compilation of reference media to the various series of the records in its custody. But, as the volume of records for which the reference media has to be prepared is very large, the Government of India is urged to sanction adequate staff for this essential aspect of archives administration. Similar programmes may be taken up by State Archives Departments also which face the same problem.

Andhra Pradesh: The programme of preparing the Reference Media for the records in its custody has already been taken up. Due to the financial difficulties additional staff for preparation of the Guides to District Records etc. could not be sanctioned.

Kerala: For the compilation of a Reference Media to all the records in the custody of the State Archives Department, a staff consisting of a Junior Editor and an Editorial Assistant has been working on the project for the last one year and more. Effort is being made to complete the work early. The State Archives is simultaneously taking steps to bring out a booklet entitled "An Introduction to the Kerala State Archives" and this is expected to serve as pre-cursor to the proposed "Reference Media".

Maharashtra: The Department of Archives of this Government has already started compilation of Reference Media to the various series of the records in its custody.

Punjab: The work for the compilation of the Reference Media to the records in the Punjab State Archives has already been taken in hand, but substantial progress has not been achieved in this behalf due to paucity of staff. With a view to implementing the recommendation in proper perspective, steps are being taken to provide more staff under the Fifth Five-Year-Plan Scheme.

Rajasthan: The work of the preparation of Reference Media to the records of the State Archives has been taken up in three ways, viz. (i) Preparation of Descriptive Lists for publication, (ii) preparation of certain lists for cyclostyling, and (iii) preparation of Subject Lists and Check-Lists.

> Resolution IV: Resolved that in the interest of completeness of official records of historical value, weeding of records at the various levels by untrained persons be stopped.

Maharashtra: A proposal to set up a training centre for imparting training in Archives-Keeping is under consideration of this Government, after which it would presumably be possible to implement this Resolution.

Mizoram: A good number of official records from some Departments have been lost during the outbreak of disturbance in Mizoram. However, appropriate action on the resolution would be taken as soon as the State Archives is formed. We have written back to Mizoram Government pointing out that action on the resolution need not await the setting up of an Archives Department in the State.

West Bengal: A copy of the resolution has been forwarded to all the Departments of the State Government for their consideration with the request to have their staff trained, if necessary, through the short-term Training Course in Record Management in the National Archives of India.

The weeding of records in the State Archives is done by the trained staff of this Department under the direct supervision of the Chief Archivists and the Assistant Director of Archives.

Resolution V: The Commission is of the view that it is imperative to take all necessary steps to ensure the proper maintenance and preservation of all Public records in the States, whether current, semi-current or non-current. The State Governments are, therefore, requested to implement urgently the recommendations already made by the Commission (vide resolutions VII and XIII of the 38th Session) and (i) transfer all District records more than 30 years old to the control of the State Archives, and (ii) declare their Director of State Archives to be inspecting authority for the non-current records of the State Offices at all levels, as also of the local bodies viz. Municipalities, Zilla Parishads etc. in the State.

Andhra Pradesh: (i) The records which are 30 years old of the District Collectorates are transferred under the orders of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to the control of the Director of State Archives, (ii) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

West Bengal: The decision of the State Government in this respect will be communicated as early as possible.

Resolution VI: The Commission reiterates its recommendation earlier made in Resolution VI of the Research and Publication Committee at its 27th meeting, and urges that Archives Departments in India should take early steps to compile lists of their old publications which are still in demand and try to get limited number of their copies reprinted.

Rajasthan: Since the State Archives is rather a nascent one it does not have any such publication which is in need of reprint.

Resolution VII: This Commission appeals to the concerned authorities of Temples, Gurdwaras, Churches, Khankahs, Waqfs etc. to allow bonafide Research Scholars to consult their documents for research purposes, and the scholars who are allowed access to these records may, if necessary, voluntarily prepare the lists of these records.

Resolution VIII: The Commission appeals to the authorities maintaining the records of the Temples, Maths, Churches, Mosques, Gurdwaras etc. to ensure their proper preservation and, if possible, to deposit these documents with the various Archives or Learned Institutions for safe custody.

Maharashtra: The matter is receiving attention.

Orissa: The authorities of the Sri Jagannath Temple have been requested to preserve their records scientifically and, if possible, to deposit the records in the State Archives of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.

The Administrator of Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri has been kind enough to allow the Research Scholars to consult the Temple records.

Resolution IX: The Commission recommends that the Universities may provide facilities for archival training, during the 5th Five-Year Plan period, if the University Grants Commission could provide financial assistance for the purpose.

Gauhati University: The matter is receiving attention.

Jabalpur University: It is not possible for this University to start a new project involving expenditure of any kind.

Jodhpur University: In order to accommodate other important schemes of the University it has not been possible to include the proposals for archival training in the 5th Five-Year Plan.

Nagpur University: There are no facilities for archival training as such in the University although the University maintains a Manuscript and Microfilms Department in the library.

Poona University: The University had formulated a proposal for the establishment of an Archival Cell and had approached the University Grants Commission for financial assistance for this purpose. The Commission has expressed its inability to accept the proposal.

Sambalpur University: The University has decided to introduce the Diploma Course in Archives Keeping in its 5th Five-Year Plan period. Action is being taken to prepare the detailed syllabus and regulations etc. for the course. The scheme shall be submitted to the University Grants Commission in time.

Visva-Bharati: The University has accepted the resolution in principle. The University Grants Commission is being moved accordingly for necessary financial assistance.

Resolution XII: Keeping in view the enormous problems created by the evergrowing bulk of records, the Commission appreciates the lead presently given by the National Archives of India and the Department of Administrative Reforms, Government of India, in the sphere of management of the records of the Union Government and their time-bound appraisal. It also notes with satisfaction the steps taken by some State Governments for weeding of their non-essential records. The Commission urges all those State Governments and Union Territories which have not yet initiated such a programme on a regular basis to do so urgently with a view to economising in the long run on the upkeep and preservation of their permanent records. The concerned Governments may consult, if necessary, the National Archives of India for this purpose.

Andhra Pradesh: The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Mizoram: Implementation of the resolution would be possible as soon as the State Archives comes into existence. The Mizoram Administration has also been explained the implications of the above resolution.

Nagaland: The organisation of the State Archives is at its initial stage, as a result very little progress was made in this respect. The State Government has been informed that the time-bound appraisal of records is equally essential when the records are in current and semi-current stage.

Orissa: Steps have already been taken for weeding out non-essential records. A permanent State Archives building has been constructed in which old records are also being collected and preserved.

Resolution XIII: The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to all the State Archives to provide facilities for the supply of microfilms or typed copies of 'open' records to bonafide Research Scholars on payment without any undue delay.

Orissa: Steps are being taken to provide typed copies of the open records to the bonafide Research Scholars on payment of cost.

Resolution XIV: Resolved that the State Governments be requested to open Regional, or Divisional Archives in each Commissioner's Division, where the non-ephemeral records of all the Collectorates etc. in the Division may be collected and preserved under the overall control and supervision of the Director of the State Archives. This is absolutely essential for the purpose of not only preservation of papers, but also for promoting the writing of regional history.

Andhra Pradesh: The Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs.11,000 for the establishment of a Regional Office of State Archives at Tirupati to centralise, in the first instance, the records of the Rayalaseema and Nellore Collectorates and manuscripts of historical importance of the area.

The question of establishment of Regional Offices in other places viz. Northern Circars and Telengana will be taken up when financial condition of the State is improved.

Orissa: The question of opening Regional or Divisional Archives in the State will be examined later as soon as the State Archives is reorganised.

V. Resolutions of the 42nd Session, Panaji(Goa) 5-7 January 1973

Resolution I: The members of the Indian Historical Records Commission deeply mourn the death of Prof. K.R. Qanungo, Prof. H.R.Ghoshal, Prof. Budh Prakash and Dr.M. Seshadri and desire that their sincere condolences be conveyed to the members of the bereaved families.

The resolution was forwarded to the members of the bereaved families.

Resolution II: The Commission reiterates Resolution II of its 33rd Session held in March 1958 recommending that edited texts or calendars of unpublished manuscripts, records or documents, when accompanied by an adequate introduction and critical apparatus, should be given the same recognition as original dissertations on arts or science subjects and should be regarded as equally worthy of consideration for the award of a Doctorate Degree. It was further resolved that the matter should be taken up, not only with the various Universities, but also with the Inter-University Board.

The Resolution was forwarded to the University Grants Commission, the Inter University Board of India and Ceylon and all the Universities represented on the Indian Historical Records Commission. Replies so far received are summarised below:

Sardar Patel University: The University agrees in principle with the recommendation of the 42nd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission regarding award of Research Degree for Textual Editing of Documents.

University of Rajasthan: Resolution II passed at the 33rd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Bhubaneswar in March 1958 on the same subject has already been accepted by this University.

Meerut University: The matter is under consideration of the Research Degree Committee of the University.

University of Saugar: The matter is under consideration of the University.

Awadesh Pratap Singh University: The resolution is useful and appropriate.

Utkal University: The University agrees in principle. But each such manuscript, and the genuine character of each of its parts should be subjected to scrutiny before any interpretation or analysis of the manuscript is considered for the award of a research degree.

Resolution III: The members of the Commission assembled at its 42nd Session at Panaji strongly feel that the Commission should not only lay down sound conventions, like those of Indian History Congress, for holding its meetings every year on certain fixed dates, but also consider the question of various categories of members, such as Corresponding Members and Institutional Members, and its procedures, should be reviewed in order to make its working more effective.

It is, therefore, resolved that the Standing Committee should study these and other connected matters in depth and make suitable recommendations.

Standing Committee's Recommendations:

The Standing Committee at its meeting held on 1st September 1973 considered the matter in depth and has made the following recommendations:

I. The Annual Sessions of the Commission:

Annual Sessions of the Commission should be held every year during the last week of October or the first week of November.

II. Membership of the Commission:

Membership of the Commission should be determined afresh to keep the strength within reasonable limits and to remove anomalies. Whereas in earlier years the number of

Members from within the country never exceeded 107, in 1972 the number jumped upto 123. More Universities and other Learned Institutions are bound to come into existence in the Fifth Plan. It, therefore, appears necessary to adopt a mode of selective representation so as to keep the total membership (excluding members from abroad) to a maximum of 120. These 120 members might consist of the following:-

(1) Ex-Officio Members ... 2
(Chairman of the Standing Committee and Secretary)

(2) Nominees of the Government of India ... 20
(to secure the active cooperation of Archivists and Historians of eminence whose valuable participation might not otherwise be available to the Commission).

(3) Representatives of the State Governments or Union Territories ... 2?
(Officers-in-Charge of State Archives where they exist, and officers concerned with Regional Records Survey Committees in other cases, may be associated with the Commission to secure active cooperation of the States which have to implement the Commission's recommendations and policies).

(4) Not more than 50 representatives of Universities having Post-Graduate teaching and research facilities in Modern (Post-1600 A.D.) Indian History, according to the following formula ... 50

(a) Central Universities (since they are expected to be "pace-setters").

(b) All Universities established upto 1948

(c) Balance representing Universities set up after 1948, keeping in view regional representation, development of historical studies etc. (while making nominations Government should give due consideration to possibility of rotation).

(d) College and Learned Institutions affiliated to various Universities need not be given separate representation on the Commission.

(5) Not more than 20 representatives of Learned Institutions which are corporate bodies and other organisations, including Government Organisations (in this category the University Grants Commission, the Reserve Bank of India or Organisation of Nationalised Banks, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Department of Administrative Reforms may be included).

Suitable changes should be made in the relevant clauses of the Constitution of the Indian Historical Records Commission.

III. Appointment of Corresponding Members:

No change is necessary in the provisions for the appointment of Corresponding Members.

IV. Pending cases of appointment of certain nominees of the State Governments/Union Territories/ Universities etc.

The Secretary should take action on items 3 and 4 of the Agenda pertaining to the appointment of nominees of the Government of India, State Governments/Union Territories, Universities etc. as Members of the Commission, without prejudice to the changes in the membership suggested by the Committee.

V. Secretariat of the Commission:

The Deputy Director or Assistant Director of Archives who is directed by the Director of Archives to assist him with the work of the Indian Historical Records Commission, if and when necessary, should be appointed ex-officio Joint Secretary of the Commission.

(Please also see p.54 containing certain more recommendations of the Standing Committee)

Resolution IV: The Commission recommends that suitable notice be taken by the Government of India and the State Governments of the meritorious services of those who had carefully preserved private records, either by preserving those records themselves or by depositing them for safe custody in a properly organised Records Repository or a suitable Learned Institution.

The resolution was forwarded by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India to the Ministry of Home Affairs for their advice in the matter. Their reply is expected soon, and the latest position would be placed before the Commission.

Resolution V: Resolved that all necessary and feasible steps be taken to save from destruction the balance sheets and other connected papers which are submitted by Indian business firms to the Registrars of Companies in various States.

The Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India have forwarded the resolution to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs for necessary action. Their decision in the matter is awaited. The Commission might be informed of the latest position.

Resolution VI: Resolved that, keeping in view the urgency of salvaging and preserving the extremely valuable Government records lying in various offices in the District Headquarters and in the various field offices of the Central and State Governments, the Central and State Governments be strongly urged to open maximum number of Intermediate Record Centres on priority basis, within their respective areas, to collect, list and preserve these records. These Records Centres should be fully manned with qualified staff and equipped with repair and reprographic facilities. The facilities should be available, not only for the Government records but should also be extended to the libraries, learned institutions and individual scholars who have valuable private records, manuscripts ect. in their possession.

Action taken by the Government of India on the above resolution and replies received from the State Governments are summarised below:

Government of India: In the fifth Five-Year Plan, a provision has been made for the setting up of two Record Centres of the National Archives of India. These will be in addition to the present Branch of the National Archives of India at Bhopal. The proposed Record Centres will cater to the needs of the Learned Institutions and Libraries in the area for repair and microfilming of records and documents.

Rajasthan: Rajasthan has already opened Intermediary Repositories at Alwar, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota and Udaipur. Provision was made in the 4th Five-Year Plan for appointment of Assistant Archivists to be posted in these Record Centres. In the 5th Plan, there are proposals for some more posts of Archivists for a couple of repositories, and for a post of Preservation Assistant and one of Binder for each of these five repositories. Steps have, however, to be taken to provide five new buildings for all the Intermediary Repositories so that the non-current records created by the various Departments during the last twenty years might be preserved there. There is, however, scope for the setting up of the Record Centres by the Government of India for the preservation of non-current records of their various Departments in Rajasthan. If the Government of India open their Record Centres in the Rajasthan and equip these with reprographic equipment, Rajasthan shall take advantage of it.

Maharashtra: With the creation of two posts of Archivists, one for the Aurangabad Repository and the other for Nagpur as nucleus staff, these Regional Archives Offices have started functioning. Besides these, Maharashtra State Archives has two more Regional Archival Repositores viz. the Alienation Office, Poona and the Kolhapur Record Office, Kolhapur.

Uttar Pradesh: The State Government has opened a Regional Record Office at Allahabad during the current financial year, which will be treated as an Intermediate Record Centre. The Office is under the charge of a Regional Record Officer. It is proposed to open more such Regional Record Offices in the State during the 5th Five-Year Plan period. These Offices will provide all facilities including photography to all Research Scholars.

(N.B. Resolution XIV of the 41st Session of the Commission also recommended the opening of Regional or Divisional Archives in each Commissioner's Division. The Replies received from Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Laccadives, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were already reported to the Commission at its 42nd Session vide Conspectus of action taken on the resolutions of the 41st Session of the Commission).

Resolution VII: Resolved that the Central and State Governments may be requested to throw open records relating to persons and parties involved in the political movements during pre-Independence days which were in the custody of the Central Bureau of Intelligence, the State Police Departments and Departments of Criminal Investigation for the use of Research Scholars.

The resolution was duly forwarded by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, State Governments and Union Territories for necessary action. Their replies are awaited.

> Resolution VIII: Resolved that the Government of India be requested to permit the bonafide Research Scholars the use of historical maps of the Survey of India available with the National Archives of India and elsewhere with minimum restrictions.

The resolution was forwarded by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare to the Ministries of External Affairs and Defence for necessary action. The matter is being taken up with these Ministries in the meeting of the officials concerned to be held on 24 November 1973.

> Resolution IX: Resolved that this body requests the State Governments to enact a law to bring under over-all supervision of the State Archives Services, records preserved by private bodies like maths, temples, churches, societies, libraries, museums, universities and learned institutions in their respective States.

The resolution was forwarded to all the State Governments and Union Territories for necessary action. The following reply has been received.

Delhi: The Delhi Administration is of opinion that there should be a law for declaring certain categories of records of maths, temples, churches etc. as national importance so as to protect the said records from dispersal, destruction and neglect.

Delhi being a Union Territory, does not have legislative powers to enact any law. Nevertheless, extension of any act of any State Government or Central Government on the subject would be considered. But it would be appropriate if the Central Law is made applicable to all Union Territories where there is no legislative body.

Resolution X: Resolved that the Government of India be requested to introduce the promised Legislation on Archives as early as possible.

The resolution was forwarded to the Government of India for their consideration. However, as explained at the 42nd Session, it is contemplated to enact an Archival Law applicable to the Union as well as the States and this is likely to take some time as the concurrence of the minimum number of State Governments is required for the purpose. In the meantime action is being taken in the field of management and administration of the records of the Union Government under the Archival Policy Resolution adopted by the Government of India in December 1972. The State Governments have also been advised to issue similar Archival Policy Resolutions for their records, though no progress is reported by any State Government so far in this matter.

Resolution XI: Resolved that all State Governments should evolve as early as possible a well articulated retirement policy for their records and prepare retention schedules for records at all levels in line with the rules of the Central Government.

The resolution was forwarded to all the State Governments and Union Territories. Replies received are summarised below:

Delhi: The contents of the resolution have been noted for necessary action.

Himachal Pradesh: The Government has already drafted a retention schedule of records for all the Departments with the objective of "weeding as we go". The Schedule is being incorporated in the draft of the Office Manual for adoption by all the Departments of the State Government.

Madhya Pradesh: The matter is under consideration of the State Government.

Mizoram: It has not been possible to take any action on the resolution. The matter will be reported to the Commission as and when any concrete action is taken.

Resolution XII: The Commission notes with regret that, inspite of its earlier recommendations, vide Resolution No.IV of its 31st Session held in 1955 and Resolution No.3(a) of the 36th Session held in 1961, the Government of India had not so far made arrangements for the manufacture of the Standard Quality Paper recommended by the ISI in consultation with the National Archives of India, with the result that the Union and State Governments, as well as others, were obliged to use low quality paper for their permanent records. The Commission, therefore, strongly recommends that urgent measures be adopted, either for manufacturing this paper in India, or for importing it from abroad, as in the long run the use of quality paper for permanent records would not only prove more economical, but was absolutely essential, keeping in view the importance of these records for the future generations.

The Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India have forwarded the resolution to the (i) Chief Controller of Printing and Stationery, (ii) Director General, Supplies and Disposals, (iii) Department of Administrative Reforms, (iv) Indian Standard Institution, and (v) Ministry of Industrial Development for their comments. Further action will be taken after the receipt of their views on the subject.

Resolution XIII: Resolved that appropriate aurhorities be moved to direct their attention to the archives of the Municipal Corporations and other Local Bodies, who should be asked to ensure their preservation in properly organised Record Rooms to be looked after by suitable staff. Further resolved that these records be regularly appraised and proper lists or catalogues be prepared of the permanent records, which should be made available for research to bonafide scholars.

The resolution was forwarded to all the State Governments and Union Territories. Reply received from the following States:

Maharashtra: The matter has been referred to the State Government.

Mizoram: It has not been possible to take any action on the resolution. The Commission will be informed as and when any concrete action is taken. The State Government has been further advised that action on the above resolution need not await the setting up of the Archives Department.

Resolution XIV: The Commission recommends that very early steps be taken by the Government of India for holding a seminar of the archivists and historians of the Indian Ocean countries to discuss about the records of mutual interest and relating to the history of one another. The record holdings of each of these countries contain materials of interest for the history of other countries in the region, concerning their cultural, social and economic aspects.

A complete projects for holding the Seminar or Symposium was drawn up by the National Archives of India, a modest financial support has been secured from UNESCO and the project is being cleared by the Government of India after consultations between the Ministries concerned. The Symposium is reported to be held before the end of 1974.

Resolution XV: The members of the Indian Historical Records Commission assembled at its 42nd Session at Panaji, heartily thank the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu for kindly inviting them to meet at this historic city, full of beauty, and with an exceptionally rich archives. The members in particular appreciate the hospitality extended and the arrangements made for their stay and for their work during the Session. It is resolved that the above sentiments be conveyed to the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu.

Copies of the resolution was forwarded to Shri S.K. Banerji, Lt. Governor, Shri D.B. Bandodkar, the then Chief Minister, Shrimati Sashikala G. Kakodkar, the then Minister of State for Education and Social Welfare, the Minister of Forest and Industry, Shri S.N. Goel, Officiating Chief Secretary, Dr. J.L. Almeida, Secretary, Department of Education and Tourism and Dr. V.T. Gune, Local Secretary and Director of Historical Archives of Goa, Daman and Diu.

/In continuation of p.45 (bottom)/

Recommendations of the Standing Committee, 3rd Meeting held on 30 November 1973

1. Consideration of the Report of the Member-Secretary on the action taken on the Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee noted the action taken by the Member-Secretary on paras Nos.I to VI of the Minutes of the Second Meeting relating to the working and Membership of the Commission, the appointment of certain nominees of the State Governments/Union Territories/Universities, and collecting information about the microfilms from abroad held by different institutions, etc.

2. Consideration of the Draft Agenda for the 43rd.Session of the Commission.

(i) The Standing Committee reviewed the Conspectus of action taken by the concerned authorities on some of the earlier Resolutions and Recommendations of the Commission (vide pp.23-53 of the Agenda Papers). It was felt that the concerned State Governments and Institutions should send their reports on the action taken on the Recommendations of the Commission more quickly and more precisely, than had hitherto been done by some.

(ii) As regards the reply received from the Berhampur University pertaining to Resolution No.XIV of the 38th Session of the Commission (Page 28 of the Conspectus), it was learnt informally that the University Grants Commission had since made funds available to the University for the post of an Archivist.

(iii) The Standing Committee recommended that, so far as the Resolutions requiring implementation by the Universities were concerned, the Member-Secretary might also keep the University Grants Commission informed while writing to the Universities.

(iv) The Standing Committee approved the drafts of "the Standing Committee's views" on the various Resolutions included in the Agenda of the 43rd Session of the Commission.

3. Other Related Matters

The Standing Committee also made the following recommendations:-

(i) The Union Education Minister or the Additional Secretary, Department of Culture, Government of India, might write to their counterparts in the States emphasising that the funds allotted by the Planning Commission for the Development of Archives in the States during the Fifth Five-Year Plan should not be diverted to other schemes.

(ii) In future, a clause might be inserted in all the Cultural Exchange Programmes finalised between India and other countries providing for "the exchange of microfilm copies of records of each other's interest, if available in the respective countries." This should also be done in the case of the Cultural Exchange Programme now being finalised between India and the U.S.S.R.

(iii) That more time should be devoted to the discussion on papers presented to the Commission by the scholars on the approved theme. In order to make these discussions more fruitful the Commission should, while deciding about the subject for the Discussion Papers for the next Session, also invite one or two of its Members, who might have specialised knowledge of that particular subject, to initiate the discussion and act as Moderators.

(iv) The "Hand-Book to the Records" series in the National Archives of India should be made upto-date. This work should be assigned to some senior retired Archivist on payment of lump sum honoraria, which should be sufficient to cover his expenses on employment of technical and secretarial assistance.